

REMARKS

In the last Action, restriction was required between Group I, claims 1-27, drawn to a guide device having controllable stiffness through use of a control device that generate magnetic fields to bring mutual attraction between a first and at least one second wire; and Group II, claims 28-30, drawn to a guide device having controllable stiffness through stretching a central hollow body to press plural second elongate bodies circumferentially surrounding the central body against an outer sleeve. The Examiner stated that the two groups are patentably distinct from each other, thereby making restriction proper. Applicant was required to elect one of the two groups for further prosecution in this application.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicant has provisionally elected Group II drawn to a to a guide device having controllable stiffness through stretching a central hollow body to press plural second elongate bodies circumferentially surrounding the central body against an outer sleeve, and submits that claims 28-30 are readable on the elected invention. The non-elected claims have been retained in the application pending possible withdrawal of the restriction requirement or applicants's decision to pursue the subject matter thereof in a continuing application.

In light of the foregoing, early and favorable
action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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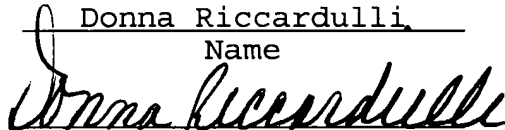
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AUGUST 19, 2008

Date